

# AMATEURADIO

News of the Amateur Radio  
and Amateur Satellite Services

A Publication of the

American Radio Relay League, Inc.

July 1983  
Volume 4 Number 7

## It's Ham Radio for Lunch

by Nancy Wallace of The Daily Report

They work on Zulu time, their signals bouncing off the ionosphere out to "choice DX" to compare notes on the weather and their "rigs."

They may sound like characters out of "E.T.," but they're actually students striving to become ham radio operators. They belong to the Fontana Junior High Amateur Radio Club, a group of about 20 students who talk with potential friends around the world.

The club was the result of a brainstorm Ken Walston had last year. Walston is a math teacher at Fontana and advisor for the club. He had an extra piece of equipment the students could use and asked his classes if anyone would be interested.

A handful of seventh and eighth graders organized, drew up a club charter, and the Amateur Radio club was born. Walston suspects this is the only ham radio club at the junior high school level in California; no others have radioed in to date.

And it is a busy club. The charter members are in the midst of a membership drive and a candy sale. Walston

said that last year they raised about \$700 with a balloon race and candy sales — "The kids worked themselves to death" — to pay for their 81-foot antenna now located on the roof of the math room.

They study math and electronics in addition to practic-

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*"The kids worked themselves to death" — to pay for their 81-foot antenna...*

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ing the Morse code to get their first ham license. Several students have passed the exam required by the FCC to get the Novice (a beginner's) class license.

Club president Rick Quiroz plans for a career in electronics. Although a bit reserved when speaking to newspaper reporters, Quiroz has no problems chatting around the world on a radio.

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# Need Help? Get SCARES!

by Charles J. Dean, The Birmingham News

SHELBY COUNTY, ALA. — An ice storm hits, snapping power lines. Or a tornado or forest fire means downed power lines and communication blackouts.

These are the times when one Shelby County group swings into action, getting the word out where help is needed.

The Shelby County Amateur Radio Emergency Service — SCARES for short — is the emergency and public service wing of the Shelby County Amateur Radio Club.

Radio amateurs, often called “hams,” are amateur only in the sense that they can’t by federal law receive money from the use of their radio equipment.

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*“The amateurs are the backbone to our emergency communications.”*

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However, when it comes to using sophisticated communications equipment and getting the word out during emergencies, there’s nothing amateur about them.

Shelby County Civil Defense Director Bill Tucker said if it wasn’t for SCARES, emergency radio communications wouldn’t exist in the county.

“The amateurs are the backbone to our emergency communications,” Tucker said. “Without them, we wouldn’t have emergency communications service during times of storms or other natural or man-made disasters.”

Tucker, along with SCARES President Carl Weak and SCARES assistant emergency coordinator Jerry Caudill, recently told the Shelby County Commission about the work being done by the group.

Caudill said the mission of SCARES is to prepare its members, through training exercises and public service events, to be able to provide disaster relief agencies in the county with emergency communications when the need arises.

He explained that radio amateurs are licensed by the Federal Communications Commission. Unlike Citizens Band operators, hams are tested by the FCC in electronics and communications skills before being issued a license to operate an Amateur Radio station.

Caudill and Weak said the group spends a great deal in both money and man-hours preparing for emergencies. In fact, the group estimates that in the last year it spent a total of \$44,000 on either new equipment or maintenance of old equipment in addition to 444 man-hours put in by about 30 members, either during emergency situations or in emergency-preparedness programs.

Despite all the money and hours put in by the group, Caudill said it always hopes it never has to be called upon. “It equates somewhat to installing smoke detectors in your home. You put them in hoping they are never heard from again,” he said. “However, emergency preparedness, like smoke detectors, allows you to sleep better at night.”

*(Reprinted with permission from The Birmingham, Alabama News)*



SCARES members are ready for any communications crisis. (From left) Jesse Patterson, Mike Hunt, Jerry Caudill and Paul Creed, coordinator.

*photo by Steve Barnette*

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE? Contact Perry Williams, ARRL's Washington Area Coordinator, and arrange for a personal visit by calling (202) 296-9107.



# Along League Lines

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ing complete, compact Amateur Radio station kits to developing countries.

Largely through the efforts of ARRL officials and the Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation (AMSAT, an organization that promotes satellite communication among Amateur Radio operators), NASA has agreed to allow Dr. Owen Garriott to operate an Amateur Radio station aboard the flight of STS-9. Garriott, an electrical engineer and Amateur Radio operator, will operate a ham station while aboard the Space Shuttle *Columbia*, scheduled for launch on September 30.

Our participation in WCY 1983 will continue through the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles. Amateur Radio stations will be located in each Olympic Village to provide a non-commercial "morale message" service to Olympians, where permitted by International Regulations. For some athletes, Amateur Radio will provide the only link to their families and friends back home. It is also anticipated that the Amateur Radio Service will provide supplemental communications during the Games, including lending communications support during the nationwide Torch Run, which will precede the Games.

These special events and services that Amateur Radio will be providing during WCY 1983 are not unique. Public service-minded amateurs have been saving lives for years by using their unique ability to communicate all over the world. Amateur Radio means international friendship, goodwill and public service — all free of charge, all the time. It is especially appropriate to recognize the Amateur Radio operators of the world during World Communications Year 1983.



Meeting recently at the Johnson Space Center in Houston to work out some details of the first Amateur Radio operation in space were: (left to right): President-Elect of AMSAT Vern Riportella, NBC Science Editor Roy Neal, ARRL Satellite Program Manager Bernie Glassmeyer, ARRL President Vic Clark, ARRL Public Information Coordinator Pete O'Dell, and Astronaut Owen Garriott.

(NASA photo)

## Ham Radio for Lunch

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Walston noted that these students' skills could prove valuable in an emergency. Provided an earthquake doesn't level his math building, they could communicate on the radio, using battery power, for nearly one week if a disaster wiped out telephone service.

The students are using about \$1,500 in equipment donated by Walston. The system is 14 years old, but works just as well as the \$5,000 systems — at least that's what other hams report.

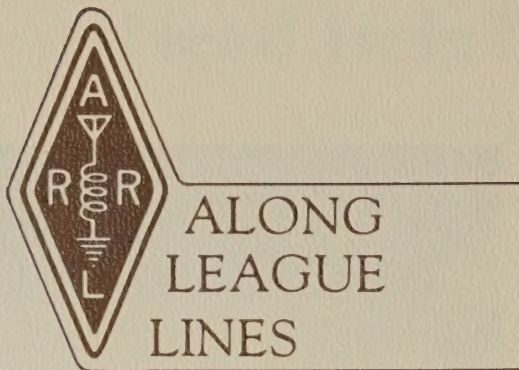


Rick Quiroz, foreground, operating the Fontana Junior High School Amateur Radio Club station. Club president Quiroz is making plans for a career in electronics. The students in the club have contacted other ham radio operators around the world from places like Zaire and Finland.

(photo by Tom Tondee)

(Reprinted with permission from The Daily Report, Fontana, Calif.)





Amateur Radio is an international phenomenon. Radio waves travel at the speed of light, passing through space and crossing international boundaries. This unique characteristic enables radio amateurs all over the world to talk with one another on a person-to-person basis.

Along with this capacity to communicate all over the world comes the responsibility of **international** public service. The Amateur Radio Service in the U.S. was created by an act of Congress; one of its main purposes is to provide a pool of technically-competent communications technicians, especially during emergencies.

For decades, radio amateurs have been providing valuable public assistance throughout the world. However,

the disaster and emergency communications that radio amateurs provide often go unnoticed by the public. The news media tend to focus on the disaster itself, not the valuable emergency personnel working to save the lives of others. Usually, the Amateur Radio operator that helps an emergency situation by communicating with disaster relief officials is rewarded with a cup of coffee and a simple "thank you." The radio amateur works in the public interest and asks for nothing more.

This year (1983) has been declared World Communications Year (WCY) by the United Nations and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). The primary objective of WCY is to focus on the field of communications and to develop communications infrastructures, especially in lesser developed countries.

The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) supports the WCY, and ARRL's President Victor C. Clark is a member of the WCY 1983 U.S. Council. The Amateur Radio Service will observe WCY by continuing various international Amateur Radio projects, ranging from the launch of yet another Amateur Radio satellite to donat-

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225 Main Street  
Newington, Connecticut 06111

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Hartford, Conn.

Permit 2929

AMATEURADIO is published monthly  
by the Public Information Office of the  
American Radio Relay League,  
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